

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a rotatable blade having one or more teeth;

a detection system associated with the blade and configured to detect one or more dangerous conditions; and

a brake mechanism configured to stop the rotation of the blade if one of the dangerous conditions is detected, where the brake mechanism includes at least one brake pawl configured to pivot into the teeth of the blade.

Claim 2 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the brake pawl is plastic.

Claim 3 (original):

The machine of claim 2, where the brake pawl is metal.

Claim 4 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the brake pawl is aluminum.

Claim 5 (original):

The machine of claim 1, further comprising a spring configured to urge the brake pawl into the teeth of the blade, and where the brake pawl includes at least one engagement member adapted to be engaged by the spring to position the spring relative to the brake pawl.

Claim 6 (original):

The machine of claim 5, further comprising a restraining mechanism configured to releasably hold the brake pawl spaced-apart from the blade against the urging of the spring, and where the brake pawl includes a mounting structure for connecting the restraining mechanism to the brake pawl.

Claim 7 (original):

The machine of claim 6, where the mounting structure is spaced-apart from the engagement member.

Claim 8 (currently amended):

The brake system of claim 1, wherein the brake ~~mechanism~~ pawl is self locking against the blade upon contact with the teeth.

Claim 9 (original):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a cutting tool having one or more teeth;

a motor configured to drive the cutting tool;

a detection system adapted to detect one or more dangerous conditions between a person and the cutting tool; and

a brake mechanism including a brake pawl movable into contact with the cutting tool so that a tooth-engaging portion of the brake pawl binds against the teeth of the cutting tool to stop movement of the cutting tool when the detection system detects at least one of the dangerous conditions;

where the tooth-engaging portion of the brake pawl is formed of metal.

Claim 10 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 9, where the one or more teeth are formed of a material having a lesser hardness than the tooth-engaging portion so that the tooth-engaging portion bites into the teeth.

Claim 11 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 9, where the tooth-engaging portion is formed of aluminum.

Claim 12 (withdrawn):

The machine of claim 11, where the one or more teeth are formed of a material having a greater hardness than aluminum so that the teeth bite into the tooth-engaging portion when the tooth-engaging portion binds against the teeth.

Claims 13-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (previously presented):

A woodworking machine, comprising:

a movable cutting tool for cutting workpieces;

at least one motor configured to drive the cutting tool;

a detection system configured to detect one or more dangerous conditions between a person and the cutting tool; and

a brake mechanism configured to stop movement of the cutting tool upon detection of one of the dangerous conditions by the detection system;

where the brake mechanism includes one or more metal braking components configured to move into contact with, and bind against, the cutting tool to stop movement of the cutting tool, and where the braking components include one or more ridges adapted to at least partially bite into the cutting tool.

Claims 18-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (original):

A woodworking machine, comprising:

a movable cutting tool having one or more teeth;

a motor configured to drive the cutting tool;

a detection system configured to detect one or more dangerous conditions between a person and the cutting tool; and

a brake mechanism including at least one brake pawl configured to engage the cutting tool upon detection of one of the dangerous conditions by the detection system, and to pivot tightly into, and bind against, the teeth to stop the movement of the cutting tool.

Claim 21 (original):

The machine of claim 20, where the brake pawl is configured to be pulled into binding engagement with the cutting tool by the teeth of the cutting tool.

Claims 22-26 (cancelled).

Claim 27 (previously presented):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a rotatable blade having one or more teeth;

a detection system associated with the blade and configured to detect one or more dangerous conditions; and

brake means for stopping the rotation of the blade if one of the dangerous conditions is detected, where the brake means includes brake pawl means for pivoting into the teeth of the blade.

Claim 28 (new):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a rotatable blade having one or more teeth, where the blade is generally planar;

a detection system associated with the blade and configured to detect one or more dangerous conditions; and

a brake mechanism configured to stop the rotation of the blade if one of the dangerous conditions is detected, where the brake mechanism includes at least one brake pawl configured to pivot into the teeth of the blade around an axis generally perpendicular to the plane of the blade.